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EYES ONLY

18 June 1959

MEMORANDUM FOR: Acting Chief, Development Projects Division

SUBJECT : Responsibilities for Project CORONA

REFERENCE : Memorandum for C/Administrative Branch, DPD, dated 15 June 1959, from DPD Security Officer, subject "Security Review - Project CORONA" (COR-9494)

1. The reference raises several questions of urgency concerning the management of CORONA and VEDAS. These have also been discussed with me informally by [] who has passed along certain views from DPD. Because of [] imminent departure and [] entry on duty, several immediate decisions are required. I am setting forth herein in very brief form my views on certain of these matters for prompt communication you.

2. CORONA Project Officer: After rather careful consideration I am convinced that [] should assume this responsibility just as rapidly as possible. It is our intention that he should be [] successor so this is a logical move. GUSTO is for the present in good hands, although I expect [] in due time to become an active participant in it since I am anxious that Gene Kiefer should not for long continue to devote so much of his time to management as against technical matters. Clearly, CORONA is where the efforts of a new senior officer are most urgently needed.

3. Cover Officer: I believe it desirable for [] and an assistant, if needed, to continue to devote their fulltime to cover problems of all sorts. Because our responsibilities with respect to CORONA are so heavily concentrated on the maintenance of cover, I realize that [] will probably continue to spend at least two-thirds of his time on this one Project. Moreover, in the immediate future, [] will have to help [] and John Parangosky with their general responsibilities because [] knows the whole background of CORONA and they do not. For the longer pull I think he should remain as the DPD Cover Officer and should be available as needed to work on CHALICE and GUSTO cover problems.

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4. Development Officer: I am assuming that John Parangosky will work as [] colleague and deputy and will play an increasingly important part in the management of the several major DPD projects. I understand that he has devoted considerable energy recently to GUSTO which seems to me highly desirable for reasons mentioned above. Looking to the future, however, I believe that both [] should develop their competence and establish contacts relating to both CORONA and GUSTO so that they can substitute for one another. I would remind you that our decision to assign two senior officers to the duties that have been discharged in the past by [] was intended to make possible the frequent absences from Washington required for the performance of these tasks while still leaving available for duty in Washington an alternate who could handle the flow of development business here. This purpose would be largely defeated by too much specialization on the part of either [] or Mr. Parangosky.

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5. With respect to [] referenced memorandum, I note his statement of a "critical need for clarification of Agency responsibilities". I am somewhat surprised by this form of words since it seemed to me that in the last month or so the Agency's responsibility has become increasingly clearly defined. Moreover, that responsibility is set forth in several memoranda that I have sent at one time or another to the Air Force. In any event, I doubt if the need is going to be met. I am fearful that an attempt at this time to draw up a written treaty with ARPA and the Air Force would produce an immense amount of debate and negotiation without necessarily any very profitable outcome.

6. Unless you see reason to the contrary you are entirely free to show this memorandum or discuss it with any of the individuals concerned. I will be glad to discuss these points with you if you hold different views or feel they require clarification. As a comment on all of the foregoing I would remind you that we are not treating Project Officers as "Czars" of any of our projects and have not done so. For instance, Operations and to a lesser extent Materiel as well as Development, Contracts, Security, Cover and Finance are all concerned with CORONA. I hope you can keep DPD small, flexible and informal enough so that this can continue.


RICHARD M. BISSELL, JR.
Deputy Director
(Plans)

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